



VETERANS DAY
District Work Period
2009



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November 7, 2009

Dear Colleague,

On Thursday, our nation was devastated by the news of the Fort Hood shootings. The lives of at least thirteen individuals were lost and dozens more were injured. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims, dead and wounded, to their families, and all of the Fort Hood community. During this Veterans' week, we remember the immeasurable sacrifice of those wearing the uniform, both on the field of battle and here at home.

Our men and women in the Armed Forces wear the uniform in defense of freedom. Let us always honor their service as we address the important challenges facing the nation.

The debate over health care reform has captured the attention of Congress for several months, even as job losses have mounted and unemployment has risen to 10.2 percent. During that time, the American people stood up against runaway spending and the Pelosi health care bill. Speaker Pelosi's 1,990 page bill is a freight train of runaway spending, bloated bureaucracy, higher taxes and federal mandates – and the American people know it.

I encourage you to continue reaching out to your constituents and the American people. We know the impact the Pelosi health care bill will have on taxpayers, small businesses, seniors, women and families. We have a responsibility to speak out and to take action.

The following district work period kit is designed to coordinate our efforts in opposition to the Pelosi health care bill and in support of the Republican alternative, a responsible, common sense health care reform plan. If you require additional information, please direct your staff to healthcare.gop.gov.

The legislative battle over health care reform is not over. We must continue to oppose the Pelosi health care bill and stand by the American people in support of Republican-offered solutions that meet the needs of families by lowering health care costs.

As always, if you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the House Republican Conference. Let's continue to take a principled stand on behalf of the American people.

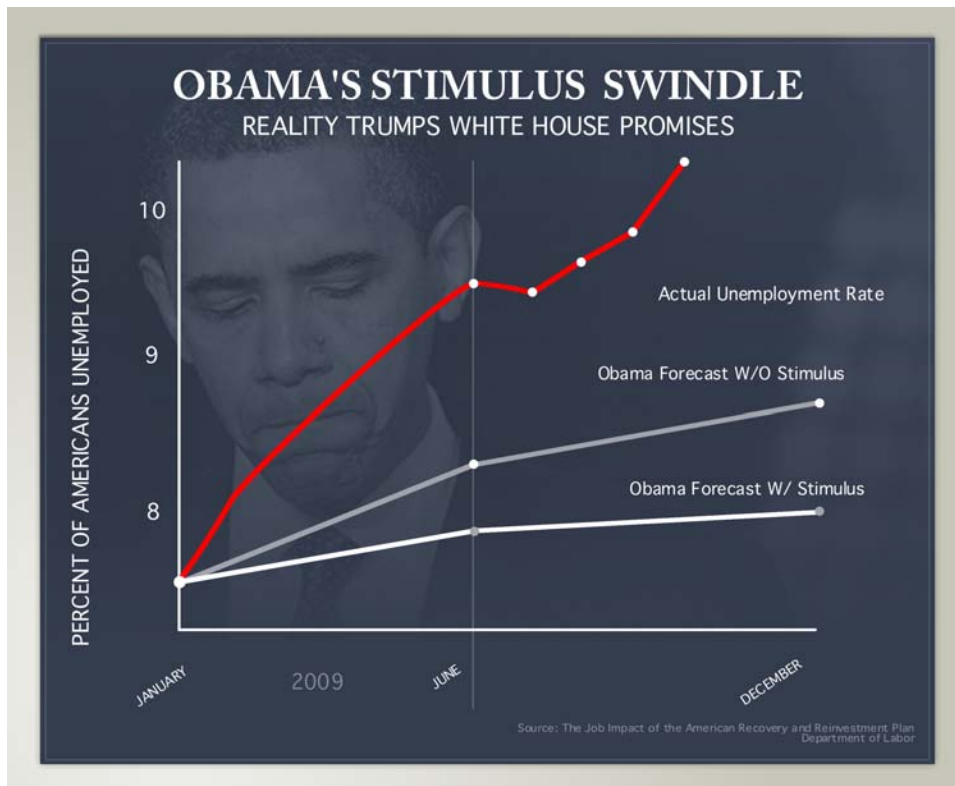
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Pence", with a stylized flourish at the end.

MIKE PENCE

GOP MESSAGE ON THE ECONOMY AND HEALTH CARE

- The American people are hurting and continuing to lose jobs.
- President Obama and Congressional Democrats promised that borrowing another trillion dollars would create jobs "immediately" and unemployment would not rise above 8%.
- However, in October, there were 190,000 jobs lost and unemployment reached 10.2 percent – a level of unemployment not seen since April 1983.
- More than 2.8 million jobs have been lost since the so-called stimulus was signed by President Obama.
- The American people want to know why Congress is focused on the Pelosi plan for a government takeover of health care, instead of a plan that will help create jobs.
- Yet, Democrats in Washington continue to ignore the real concerns facing American families.
- The American people know that a true economic recovery starts with tax relief for working families and small businesses, and fiscal discipline in Washington.
- House Republicans are on the side of the American people.
- House Republicans oppose the Pelosi health care bill and stand by the American people in support of real solutions that will help create jobs and lower health care costs.



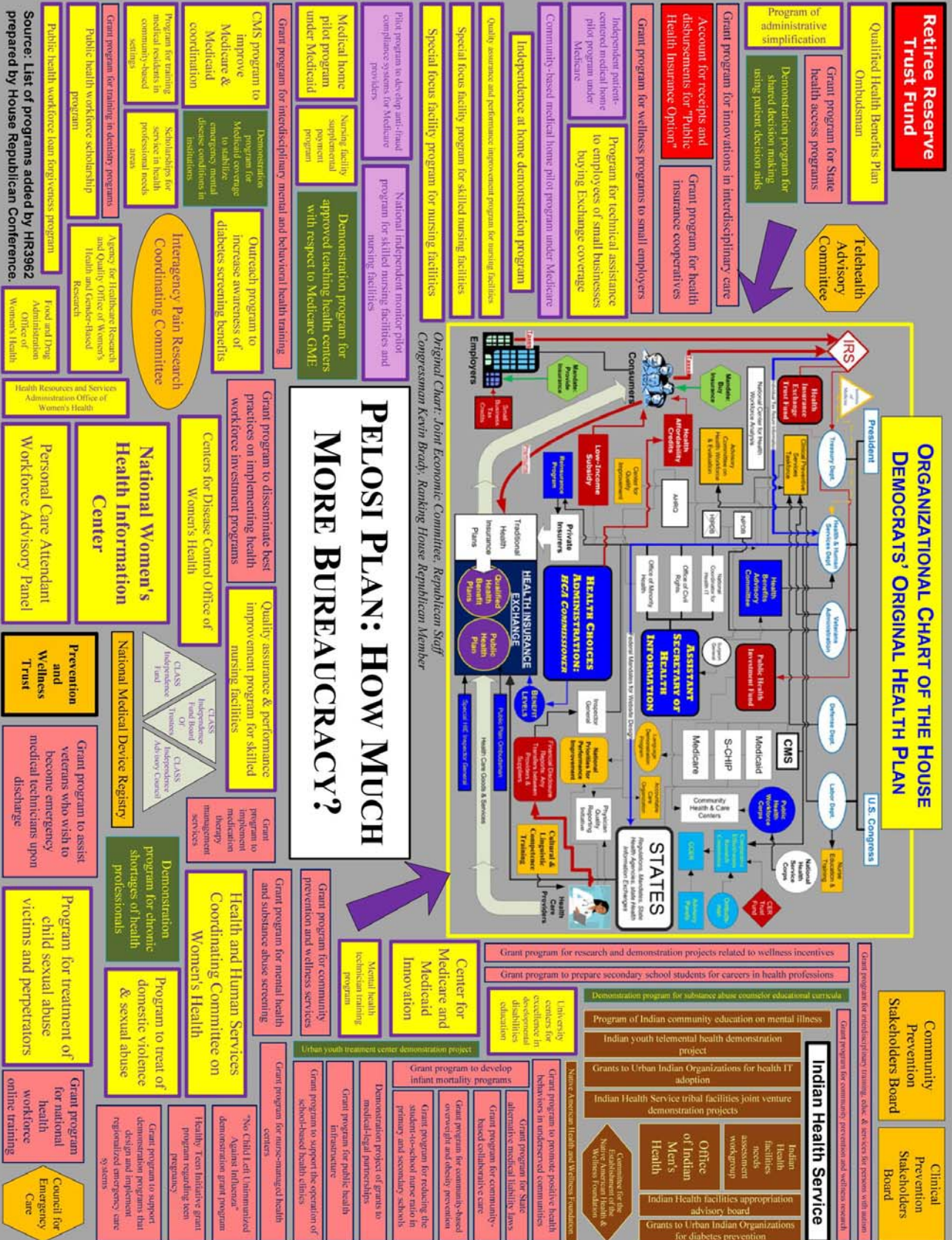
- House Republicans introduced an economic recovery plan that will create twice the jobs at half the costs of the Democrat so-called "stimulus," and introduced a health care plan that will lower cost, reduce the deficit and ensure coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.



GOP MESSAGE ON THE PELOSI HEALTH CARE BILL

- House Republicans will oppose any effort to pass a sweeping government takeover of health care and are committed to working on bipartisan solutions to fix what is broken.
- After weeks of meeting behind closed doors, Speaker Pelosi unveiled another government-run health care plan - this one running 1,990 pages long and costing \$1.3 trillion.
- The Pelosi health care bill will raise taxes, increase health care costs, add to our national debt, and hurt America's seniors, families and small businesses.
- Despite months of town hall meetings and after millions of Americans voiced their opposition to a government takeover of health care, Democrats in Washington are moving ahead anyway.
- According to various studies, millions of Americans could lose their current health insurance.
- One recent WellPoint study estimated that younger Americans could see their health care premiums triple and a family of four could see their health care premiums more than double.
- The Congressional Budget Office has testified before Congress that the Democrat health care plan will actually INCREASE health care spending by the federal government.
- House Republicans have a simpler and less expensive health care plan that reduces health care costs by letting individuals buy health care across state lines, allowing small businesses to pool together to purchase health care at a lower cost and by reining in junk lawsuits.
- The American people and House Republicans want to pass responsible health care reform that lowers costs and offers greater access to affordable health care.

For more information, please visit HealthCare.GOP.gov





THE PELOSI HEALTH CARE BILL WILL HURT SMALL BUSINESSES

- The Pelosi health care bill imposes a \$460 billion surtax on the so-called "rich" to help pay for her government takeover of health care.
- According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, one-third of the Pelosi surtax will fall on small businesses, meaning \$154 billion in new taxes on small business owners.
- Small businesses represent more than 99 percent of all businesses in the country, and have historically employed half of the U.S. workforce and compose half of the total U.S. economy.
- Small businesses have previously created more than 72 percent of new jobs across the country.
- The Pelosi health care bill would also impose roughly \$135 billion in taxes on businesses that cannot afford to pay for their employees' health care.
- According to an economic model created by the president's chief economic advisor, the Pelosi tax hikes will result in the loss of up to 5.5 million jobs.
- According to research conducted by Harvard Professor Kate Baicker, minority workers will be twice as likely to lose their jobs as their white counterparts if the Democrats' jobs-killing tax hikes become law.
- The Pelosi health care bill creates an estimated 118 new government boards, bureaucracies, commissions and programs that will only add to the burden already felt by small businesses.
- Since the recession began almost two years ago, more than 7 million jobs have been lost. The Department of Labor reports that 190,000 jobs were lost in October alone.
- Why is Speaker Pelosi pushing a government takeover of health care that will inflict harm on small businesses and make job losses even worse?
- House Republicans have a common sense plan that small businesses can afford.
- The House Republican plan allows small businesses to pool their employees at a national level, reducing health care costs for employers and their workers.
- Right now labor unions and major corporations can pool their employees nationally. If it's good enough for Fortune 500 companies, it's good enough for small businesses.
- According to the Congressional Budget Office, the House Republican plan will reduce small business premiums by up to 10 percent, meeting the need to lower health care costs.

For more information, please visit HealthCare.GOP.gov

BAD FOR BUSINESS - SPEAKER PELOSI'S HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER

The Republican Conference has compiled a list of provisions in the Pelosi health care bill that would harm American businesses, particularly small businesses, and the economy as a whole:

Tax on Jobs Will Increase Unemployment. The Democrat bill would impose \$135 billion in taxes on businesses who cannot afford to finance their workers' health coverage. The Congressional Budget Office has confirmed that this tax on jobs masquerading in the form of a "pay-or-play" mandate "could reduce the hiring of low-wage workers," and could also lead to wage stagnation as wage compensation is diverted to comply with new federal taxes and mandates. A model developed by chief Obama advisor Christina Romer indicates that as many as 5.5 million jobs could be lost from the bill's new taxes-at a time when unemployment is at 26-year highs.

Hundreds of Billions in Taxes on Business. In addition to the tax on jobs described above, H.R. 3962 includes nearly half a trillion dollars in other taxes-including a surtax more than half of whose intended targets are small businesses. Imposing a total of \$729.5 billion in higher taxes on a struggling economy would be a recipe for years, if not decades, of prolonged stagnation.

New Federal Mandates. The Democrat legislation exempts employer coverage from the additional federal mandates included in the bill, but only for a five year "grace period"-after which all the bill's mandates would apply. This provision, by applying new federal mandates and regulations-including an unprecedented federal micro-management of provider networks, and other diktats that would increase the cost of millions of policies-to employer-sponsored coverage, would increase health costs for businesses and their workers, and by tying employers' hands, would have the effect of encouraging firms to drop existing coverage, leaving their employees to join the government-run health plan.

New Federal Health Police to Enforce Mandates. H.R. 3962 includes provisions requiring the new

Health Choices Commissioner to conduct audits of health benefits plans in conjunction with States, and further authorizes the Commissioner to "recoup from qualified health benefits plans reimbursement for the costs of such examinations." These provisions would likely lead to overlapping and duplicative requirements on private businesses-as well as higher costs due to inspections by the "health care police," which businesses themselves would have to finance.

Expanded Federal COBRA Mandates. In an attempt to provide immediate benefits to the American people before the bill's coverage expansions commence, Section 113 of H.R. 3962 imposes a new unfunded mandate on businesses, by requiring an extension of COBRA coverage until such time as subsidies in the Exchange become available. As individuals electing COBRA coverage have been documented to have health costs 45 percent higher than those of active employees, this provision would raise costs for businesses-as well as premiums paid by current employees-while encouraging firms to drop coverage entirely to avoid the expanded federal mandates.

Expanded Federal Retiree Mandates. Section 110 of the bill prohibits employer plans from reducing benefits provided to retirees, unless firms also reduce benefits to existing workers-a costly provision likely to encourage plans to drop their retiree populations entirely.

Provisions a Boon to Trial Lawyers. The bill includes language specifying that existing State private rights of action would apply to plans as currently permitted under existing law and establishes whistleblower protections against employee complaints regarding actual or potential violations of the bill's provisions. These mandates would not only raise insurance costs, but would make businesses subject to new lawsuits perpetrated by the trial bar.

THE PELOSI HEALTH CARE BILL WILL HURT SENIORS

- Responsible health care reform will preserve a senior's choice and reduce the cost of health care.
- The Pelosi health care bill includes \$170 billion in cuts to Medicare Advantage that will result in the loss of health care for millions of seniors.
- As a result, Medicare Advantage plans will drop out of the program, limiting seniors' choices and causing millions to lose their current health care coverage.
- Cuts to Medicare Advantage will have an exceptionally harmful impact on seniors in rural areas- forcing many seniors into a one-size-fits-all government-run health plan.
- The CBO has also said that the Pelosi health care bill will increase seniors' Medicare prescription drug premiums by 20 percent over the next decade.
- Medicare finances are rapidly deteriorating and we should be working on real solutions that ensure the long-term financial stability of Medicare.
- While AARP cuts back-room deals with Democrat leaders to protect the pay of their highly-compensated top executives, seniors face cuts to their health care.
- Despite the president's promise that "if you like your current plan, you can keep it," it is clear many seniors will face harmful consequences if the Democrat health care plan becomes law.
- House Republicans have a common sense plan for reform that lowers the costs of health care and reduces the deficit.
- According to the Congressional Budget Office, the House Republican plan will reduce premiums by up to 10 percent.
- The House Republican plan will not cut seniors' health care, and actually cracks down on waste, fraud and abuse to strengthen the Medicare program.
- The House Republican plan ensures seniors keep the care they have and that no government bureaucrat stands between them and their doctor.

For more information, please visit HealthCare.GOP.gov



BAD FOR SENIORS - SPEAKER PELOSI'S HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER

The Republican Conference has compiled a list of provisions in the Pelosi health care bill that would harm American seniors:

Millions Lose Their Current Coverage. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that provisions in H.R. 3962 would lead to a total of \$170 billion in cuts being taken from Medicare Advantage plans that provide a choice of health care options to seniors. These harmful and arbitrary cuts could result in Medicare Advantage plans dropping out of the program, harming beneficiary choice and causing 3 million seniors to lose their current coverage; millions more seniors could see premiums rise or additional benefits curtailed. According to former Clinton Administration official Ken Thorpe, while every senior had access to a Medicare Advantage plan in 2007, millions of seniors did not have a choice of plans in 1999-and the significant cuts in the Democrat bill mean that the promise of "If you like your current plan, you can keep it" would likely ring hollow for many Medicare Advantage beneficiaries.

Reduced Access-Or Higher Premiums. In order to keep to the President's promise of a deficit-neutral bill, H.R. 3962 excludes language providing adjustments to the Medicare formula that governs physician reimbursement levels. As a result, physicians would receive a 21 percent cut in payment levels beginning in January, and further reductions thereafter. While Democrats have introduced separate stand-alone legislation (H.R. 3961) to address the payment issue, the more than \$200 billion cost of that bill is not offset with other spending reductions, so seniors would pay one-quarter of the corresponding increase in physician spending through higher Part B premiums-as much as \$70 billion worth.

Part D Premium Increases. The bill would begin a phased-in process of filling in the Part D coverage gap, or "doughnut hole." However, CBO has previously stated that filling in the "doughnut hole" immediately would cause a 50 percent spike in average Part D premiums when compared to current law projections-and these higher costs would be passed on to American seniors.

Does Not Address Medicare's Long-Term Solvency. Although the legislation includes more than \$400 billion in Medicare savings provisions, the Administration's own actuaries have confirmed that the bill would increase overall health spending-exacerbating the long-term trends that have placed the Medicare program in financial peril.

Opens the Door to Government Rationing. Democrats have repeatedly refused to eliminate cost grounds as a factor in coverage decisions, and H.R. 3962 includes no such limitations on making reimbursement decisions on cost grounds. Therefore, providers may be concerned that the bill could lead to delay or denial of life-saving treatments for seniors, particularly given President Obama's own comments on this issue: "The chronically ill and those toward the end of their lives are accounting for potentially 80 percent of the total health care bill out here....There is going to have to be a very difficult democratic conversation that takes place."

End-of-Life Counseling. Provisions in H.R. 3962 would expand the definition of Medicare physician services to include consultations regarding end-of-life decision-making. This provision could result in government-paid consultations encouraging assisted suicide or other forms of euthanasia.



THE PELOSI HEALTH CARE BILL WILL HURT WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

- As moms, doctors, nurses, caregivers and taxpayers, women play a critical role in the health care debate.
- 85 percent of women are the primary health care decision makers in the home.
- The U.S. Census Bureau reports that 82 million adult women are moms, and 32 million women have a child living in their homes.
- Women overwhelmingly support reform but want to know that reform will improve the quality and affordability of their current health care.
- For many women and their families, higher health care costs mean the difference between receiving care and going without.
- Independent experts agree that the Pelosi health care bill will lead to millions of Americans losing their current health care coverage.
- Unfortunately, the Pelosi health care bill empowers government bureaucrats and undermines a women's ability to make the best health care decisions for her and her family.
- Increased taxes and higher health insurance premiums, as a result of the Pelosi health care bill, will hurt women, their children and their families.
- A recent study published in the journal, Health Affairs, found that a government-run plan could cause annual insurance premiums for a family of four to increase by more than \$4,500.
- According to one Harvard study, the tax hikes included in the Pelosi health care bill will put women at a disproportionately higher risk of losing their jobs.
- The Pelosi health care plan includes more runaway spending that will be added to our national debt, leaving a fiscal time bomb on the doorstep of future generations.
- House Republicans introduced a common sense health care reform plan lowers health care costs, reduces the deficit and ensures those with pre-existing conditions have coverage.
- According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the House Republican plan will reduce premiums by up to 10 percent and reduce the deficit by \$68 billion over the next decade.
- House Republicans oppose the Pelosi government takeover of health care.

For more information, please visit HealthCare.GOP.gov

BAD FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES- SPEAKER PELOSI'S HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER

The Republican Conference has compiled a list of provisions in the Pelosi health care bill that would harm women, children, and families:

Tax on Jobs Will Hurt Women and Young Workers Hard. The Democrat legislation includes nearly a trillion dollars in taxes on high-income filers-more than half of whom are small businesses-and would impose an additional \$135 billion in taxes on businesses who cannot afford to finance their workers' health coverage. According to Harvard professor Kate Baicker, this tax on jobs masquerading in the form of a "pay-or-play" mandate would put at least 5.5 million workers "at substantial risk of unemployment," and further noted that women and young adults "face the highest risk of losing their jobs under employer mandates." The Congressional Budget Office has also confirmed that such mandates "could reduce the hiring of low-wage workers," and could also lead to wage stagnation as wage compensation is diverted to comply with new federal taxes and mandates. At a time when unemployment stands at 26-year highs-and continues to rise-these harmful tax increases would hurt exactly the low-wage workers that health care bill is intended to help.

Federal Funds for Abortion. As originally drafted, H.R. 3962 would permit federal funds to subsidize plans covering abortion, would require at least one health insurance plan offered in nationwide Exchanges to cover abortion, and also requires that the government-run plan cover abortions unless the "Hyde amendment" restrictions on federal funding for abortion coverage are renewed every year in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. These provisions, coupled with other regulatory requirements that could see federal bureaucrats intervening to ensure private employers include

abortion clinics in their networks, would result in the federal government funding actions inherently anti-family and which many women find morally objectionable.

Higher Health Insurance Premiums. H.R. 3962 states that insurance carriers could vary premiums solely based upon family structure, geography, and age; insurance companies could not vary premiums by age by more than 2 to 1 (i.e., charge older individuals more than twice younger applicants). Average premiums for individuals aged 18-24 are nearly one-quarter the average premium paid by individuals aged 60-64. While supporting initiatives (such as State-based high-risk pools) that would provide affordable coverage to those with pre-existing conditions, the very narrow age variations allowed in H.R. 3962 as written would function as a significant transfer of wealth from younger to older Americans-and by raising premiums for young and healthy individuals, may likely discourage their purchase of insurance.

Rising Debt a Fiscal Time Bomb for Future Generations. The Pelosi health care bill contains nearly \$1.3 trillion in spending over its first ten years-and excludes companion legislation regarding Medicare physician reimbursements (H.R. 3961) that would increase the deficit by more than \$200 billion, as that bill is entirely unpaid-for. Treasury Secretary Geithner's claims of the United States' fiscal rectitude were publicly mocked by an audience during a visit to China-and growing the problem by adding well over \$1 trillion in federal spending would only increase the debt burden to be faced by future generations.

REPUBLICANS' COMMON-SENSE REFORMS WILL LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS

Courtesy of the House Republican Leader's Office

Americans want a step-by-step, common-sense approach to health care reform, not Speaker Nancy Pelosi's costly, 1,990-page government takeover of our nation's health care system. Republicans' alternative solution focuses on lowering health care premiums for families and small businesses, increasing access to affordable, high-quality care, and promoting healthier lifestyles – without adding to the crushing debt Washington has placed on our children and grandchildren. Following are the key elements of Republicans' alternative plan:

- Lowering health care premiums. The GOP plan will lower health care premiums for American families and small businesses, addressing Americans' number-one priority for health care reform.
- Establishing Universal Access Programs to guarantee access to affordable health care for those with pre-existing conditions. The GOP plan creates Universal Access Programs that expand and reform high-risk pools and reinsurance programs to guarantee that all Americans, regardless of pre-existing conditions or past illnesses, have access to affordable care – while lowering costs for all Americans.
- Ending junk lawsuits. The GOP plan would help end costly junk lawsuits and curb defensive medicine by enacting medical liability reforms modeled after the successful state laws of California and Texas.
- Prevents insurers from unjustly cancelling a policy. The GOP plan prohibits an insurer from cancelling a policy unless a person commits fraud or conceals material facts about a health condition.
- Encouraging Small Business Health Plans. The GOP plan gives small businesses the power to pool together and offer health care at lower prices, just as corporations and labor unions do.
- Encouraging innovative state programs. The GOP plan rewards innovation by providing incentive payments to states that reduce premiums and the number of uninsured.
- Allowing Americans to buy insurance across state lines. The GOP plan allows Americans to shop for coverage from coast to coast by allowing Americans living in one state to purchase insurance in another.
- Promoting healthier lifestyles. The GOP plan promotes prevention & wellness by giving employers greater flexibility to financially reward employees who adopt healthier lifestyles.
- Enhancing Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). The GOP plan creates new incentives to save for current and future health care needs by allowing qualified participants to use HSA funds to pay premiums for high deductible health insurance.
- Allowing dependents to remain on their parents' policies. The GOP plan encourages coverage of young adults on their parents' insurance through age 25.

Scorecard: Speaker Pelosi's Government Takeover vs. GOP Common Sense Solutions

	Speaker Pelosi's Bill	GOP Alternative
Job Losses	Up to 5.5 Million	0
Medicare Cuts	\$500 Billion	\$0
Tax Increases	\$729.5	\$0

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

Every day the men and women of our Armed Forces stand in defense of our nation and our cherished way of life. They do so regardless of the costs, fully aware that they may be called to pay the ultimate price for their country. This week, communities across the country gather to express our undying gratitude for those who have worn our nation's uniform. Let us remember those who have given their last full measure of devotion and for the families who mourn their loss.

To all of our veterans we say thank you and may God bless you.



"We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty, though it never was. Most of all, we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause." -Ronald Reagan, Veterans' Day Address, November 11, 1988



House Republican Conference

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